

History and Principles of Self-Determination

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between the history and principles of self-determination and the implementation of the Self-Determination Program in California
- Understand the importance of grassroots efforts by consumers, families, and advocacy groups in passage of the law
- Know the 5 principles of Self-Determination

Definition

Self-Determination is “a means by which individuals who are eligible for state developmental disabilities services are empowered to gain control over the selection of services, or supports, that meet their own needs. The principles and values of self-determination are implemented through new configurations of services and supports in combination with existing services.”

Fenton, G. and Hart, K. (eds.) 1997. Beyond Managed Care: Volume II: An Owner's Manual for Self-Determination. Concord, NH: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

In Other Words...

Self-Determination is a program where an individual (or his or her parents or legal representative) is given a specific budget from which they can purchase the services and supports that they need to make their person-centered plan work for them.

History and Background

- Lanterman Act lays ground work for Self-Determination
- 1998 Self-Determination Pilots
- Significant grassroots effort by consumers, families and advocacy groups to pass a law to expand Self-Determination to include additional participants
- Senate Bill 468 (Chapter 683, Statutes of 2013), established the Self-Determination Program in law, including five principles to guide the program

Principles of Self-Determination

Freedom

Authority

Support

Responsibility

Confirmation

Freedom

... to exercise the same rights as all citizens; to establish, with freely chosen supporters, family and friends, where they want to live, with whom they want to live, how their time will be occupied, and who supports them...

Authority

... to control a certain sum of dollars in order to purchase services and supports of their choosing.

Support

... to arrange resources and personnel, both formal and informal, that will assist a person with a disability to live a life in his or her community that is rich in community participation and contributions.

Responsibility

...to be accountable for the use of public dollars, and to accept a valued role in their community through, for example, competitive employment, organizational affiliations, spiritual development, and general caring of others in their community.

Confirmation

...of the critical role of participants and their families in making decisions in their own lives and designing and operating the system that they rely on.

In Other Words...

Self-Determination is:

- Having a choice
- Individuals knowing more about themselves
- Having dreams and goals and going after them
- Being in control
- Making their own decisions
- Spending money their way
- About dignity and respect

Questions

